

REMARKS

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

This divisional application is being filed as a result of the election requirement in the parent case, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/246,595 filed on September 18, 2002.

By this preliminary amendment, claims 1-51 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 52-68 are now presented which comply with the requirements of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and U.S. patent law, and more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. In addition, reference to the parent U.S. patent application, related PCT application, and German patent applications has been made in the specification. The introduction of new matter has been carefully avoided.

CONCLUSION

Examination of this application is now requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David A. Pascarella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Pascarella" clearly legible.

David A. Pascarella
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 36,632

Dated: September 30, 2003

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579